

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7, 9-16 and 18-20 are rejected. Claims 8 and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Tanaka** (USP 6,522,971) in view of **Britt** (USP 6,647,267). Claims 5 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Tanaka** and **Britt** as applied to claims 1 and 10, and further in view of **Minari** (USP 6,809,831). Claims 6 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Tanaka** and **Britt** as applied to claims 1 and 10, and further in view of **Fritsch** (USP 6,247,130). Claims 7 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Tanaka**, **Britt**, and **Minari** as applied to claims 1, 5, 10 and 14, and further in view of **Kawai et al.** (USP 6,404,994). Claims 9 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Tanaka** and **Britt** as applied to claims 1 and 10, and further in view of **Hanzawa** (USP 5,506,661). Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Tanaka** in view of **Fritsch**. For the reasons set forth in detail below, these rejections, to the extent they have considered to apply to the amended claims, are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 10, 19 and 20 have been amended to clarify features of the invention. More particularly, these claims have been amended to clarify that a client instructs the printout at the printer agent printing cite.

Tanaka discloses an information input/output system including a service center for offering various services, such as a printing service (see column 4, line 61 – column 5, line 4), through a communications network. More specifically, as shown in Fig. 1, the **Tanaka** system includes a service center 2 offering various services through a communications network 1, a plurality of service stations 3 for transmitting/receiving information to/from the service center 2 through the communication network 1, and a user terminal 4 for transmitting/receiving information to/from the service center 2 or the service stations 3 through the communications network 1. The user terminal 4 can be a stationary terminal, such as a personal computer (PC), or a mobile communications terminal, such as a cellular phone (column 4, lines 22-25).

The service center 2 includes a database device that stores various information, including information regarding the service stations 3, such as information of access points closest to the service station 3 (column 3, lines 35-36), and positional information of a user who owns a mobile communications terminal (column 4, lines 8-9).

In operation, the user terminal 4 requests various services to the service center 2 via the communications network 1. The service center 2 refers to the database device based on the content of the service request from the user terminal 4 or a location of the user terminal 4 and selects at least one candidate for the service station 3 so that the user terminal is informed of the

selected candidate for the service station 3 via the communication network 1. See column 4, lines 32-39.

Tanaka discloses two examples of typical services requested by a user – (1) a route searching processing for carrying out search of a route to a predetermined place, and (2) a target exhibition searching processing for performing search of a target designated by a user (see col. 6, lines 11-16). According to the target exhibition search processing, various services can be searched (column 8, lines 6-9) based on a current position of a user (column 8, lines 13-18), and a display including a distance from the user's current position is displayed as a result of the search (column 8, lines 23-30 and Figs. 11A and 11B).

Britt et al. discloses a cellular telephone locating system including a data base processing facility 22 that receives latitude and longitude information provided by a cellular phone 12 and uses that data to index a plurality of databases, e.g., street, landmark, road services, intersection, zone and jurisdiction databases. For example, latitude and longitude data provided by the cellular phone 12 may be converted by the database processing facility 22 to a street address. See column 2, lines 28-40.

Unlike the claimed invention, **Tanaka** does not disclose or suggest a printer that performs a printout when a client who has sent the print request instructs the printout at the printing agent printer cite, as presently recited in the claims 1, 10, 19 and 20.

The Examiner applies **Britt** to teach data bases that corresponds longitudes and latitudes to addresses to determine the location of a user. However, **Britt** does not alleviate the deficiencies of **Tanaka** discussed above.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of **Tanaka** and **Britt** does not result in the claimed invention. Further, each of claims 2-4 and 11-13, which depend from either claim 1 or claim 10, patentably distinguish over the cited prior art for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 10 by virtue of their dependency thereon.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that neither **Fritsch, Minari, Kawai et al.** nor **Hanzawa** disclose or suggest the features presently recited in claims 1, 10, 19 and 20. Each of claims 5-7 and 9 depend from claim 1. Each of claims 14-16 and 18 depend from claim 10. Therefore, claims 5-7, 9, 14-16 and 18 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 10 by virtue of their dependency thereon.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited prior art and therefore define allowable subject matter. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under §103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

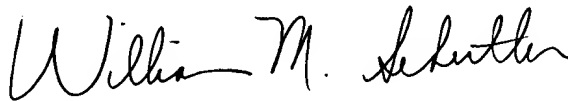
Application No. 09/822,228
Group Art Unit: 2624

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 010273

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Schertler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" and last name "Schertler" being more legible than the middle initial "M".

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